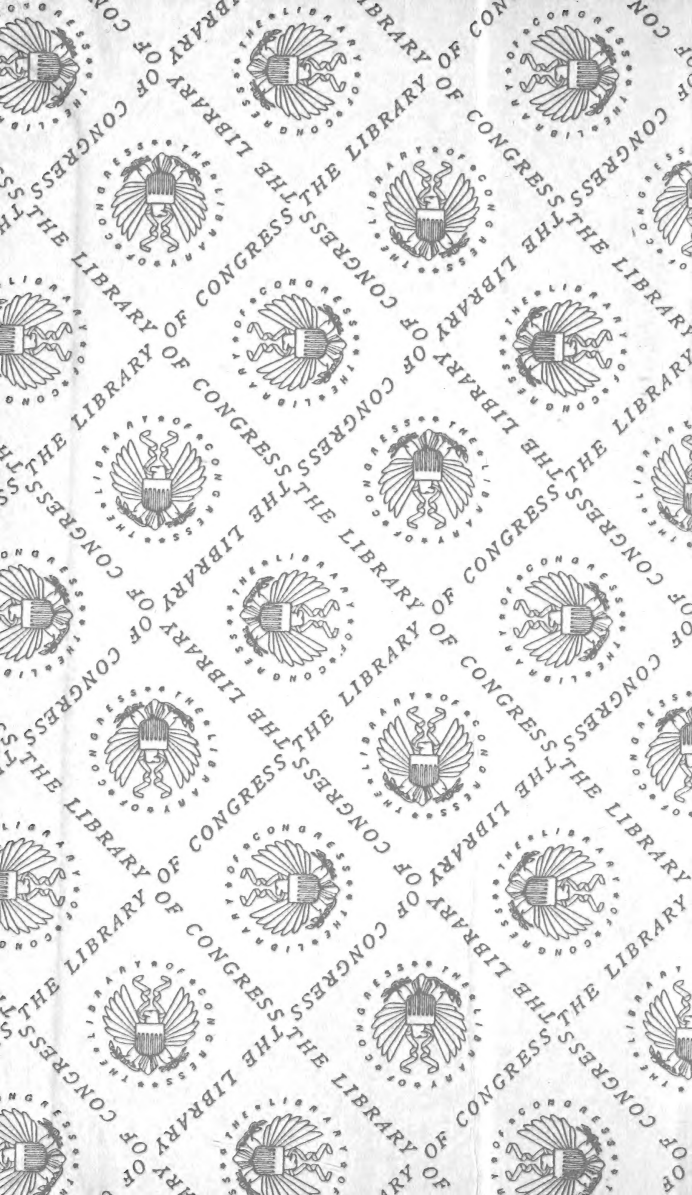
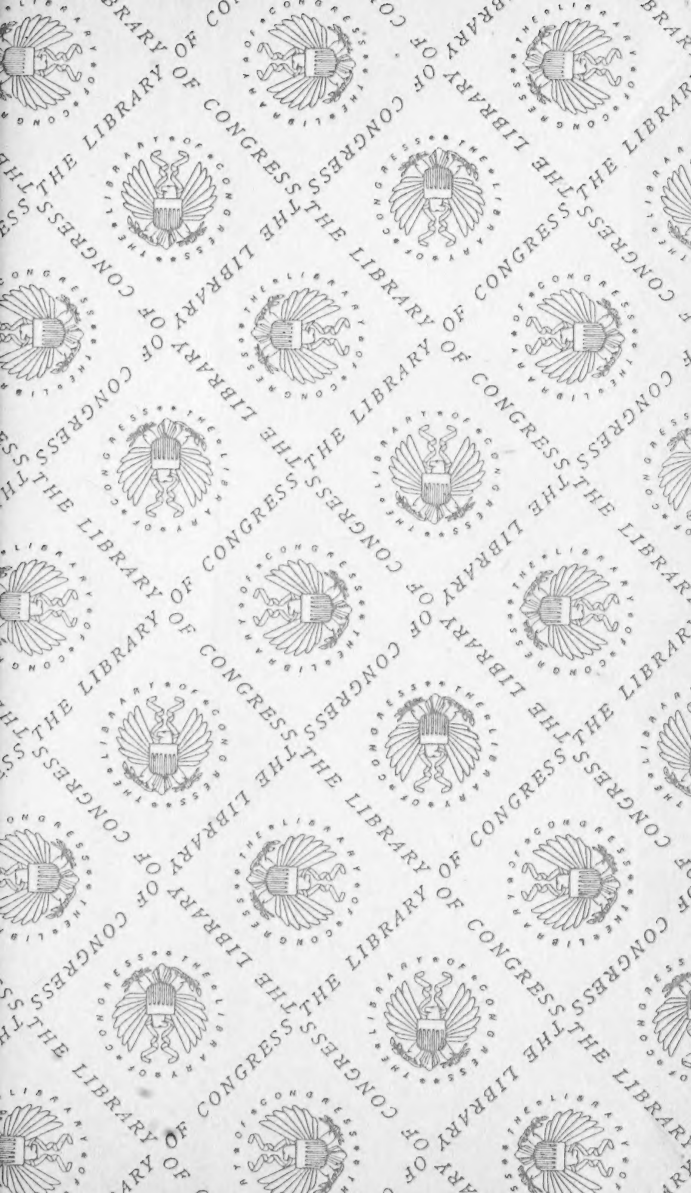


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THE HUNTER

AND ANGLER



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A BOOK THAT IS NEEDED BY EVERYBODY WHO
TAKES PLEASURE IN THE SPORTS OF
HUNTING AND FISHING.

—***—
1882.

PUBLISHERS:
**CHAMPION PUBLISHING CO.,
NEW YORK.**



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INTRODUCTION.



IN presenting this work to our readers, we desire to benefit them mentally as well as physically.

Some one has said: "I go to the woods for game; if there is no game, I gather nuts or flowers—and in any event I gain health."

There is no pursuit so well fitted to make *men* of boys as hunting.

The mere fact of being in the open air and undergoing the necessary exercise, is so evidently beneficial that we need not enlarge on it. Add to this the nerve, quickness, keenness of sight and the requisite exercise of all the faculties, and we have all that is required for the development of the system.

Fishing, on the other hand, is styled "The Gentle Craft," and while not of use in accumulating muscle, requires abilities that are conducive to a perfect physical and mental development.

If we can induce our readers—by the means of this volume—to engage in those sports with the enthusiasm necessary to a complete acquirement, we will have succeeded in helping them toward that perfect health without which there is nothing worth having.



THE HUNTER AND ANGLER.



THE RIFLE AND SHOT-GUN.

The rifle is the "king pin" of the hunter's and trapper's success.

For a timber gun, or rifle for short range, nothing can excel the improved Winchester, model '73. It is a close, clean shooter, is easily kept in order, and is handily packed while in the woods, or carried on a saddle. When cartridges are carried in the magazine for several days, the ends of the balls become battered, but they can easily be trimmed with a knife or file.

For large game, and long range shooting, the Sharpe's and Remington rifle should be recommended. They both shoot close, hold the same cartridges, and are of equal merit.

The Remington rifle shoots well, but its works are sometimes cranky, and it has been known to be affected with frost so the breech-blocks would stick fast. When warmed, they would work well, but when exposed to the air again they would soon be frosted. The set trigger is not to be depended on, or it soon becomes worn in many of the cheaper guns, and a jar will let it off. The set trigger of the Winchester is sometimes faulty, but it pulls so easily (very much like the Colt's revolver), when not set, that it is not necessary to use it set in severe weather.

When shooting rapidly, the Sharpe's rifle is more conveniently loaded than the Remington, as the cartridges naturally fall down into the barrel; with the Remington it is often necessary to seat them with the fingers.

The Maynard rifle shoots well, but its awkward stock makes it unpopular with sportsmen.

The shells of long, heavy cartridges will stick in most rifles when a little foul. A breech-loading rifle should never be used when dirty. If you have been shooting rapidly, wipe out your rifle, at the first opportunity, and clean, with a greasy cloth, the dust from a few of the cartridges in the front of your belt.

The Needle-gun and Winchester rifle are superior to all others in throwing shells clean from the barrel. The Winchester rifle will throw the shells over the hunter's shoulder, and when firing rapidly at running deer, at long range, a second

shot is often fired before the first shell strikes the ground.

It would take more space than can be given here to describe all the different shot guns; and as we are writing of American sports, a description of American guns only will be given.

The Remington shot-guns cost but forty-five dollars. They shoot hard and close, and work admirably. This is the gun "for the million," and is the best breech-loader in the market for the money.

The Fox gun differs from all others, having a side action when loading, thus doing away with the clumsy fall of the barrels, which occurs when charging other breech-loaders.

It is not so liable to wear, being unlike the greater number of breech-loading shot-guns, in having no hinge for the barrels to work on.

The Fox gun will stand uncommonly hard usage; we have seen it subjected to severe tests, and have never known one to give out.

Next, we have the newly invented Baker gun; it is already becoming popular, and its utility will make it the deer-hunter's favorite. In this gun we have a heavy, strong shooting breech-loading rifle, and a fine double breech-loading shot-gun. With a heavy ball in the rifle barrel, a charge of loose "buck" in one shot barrel, and a wire cartridge of buck-shot in the other, the hunter is "fixed" for all emergencies. The sights of this

gun are directly over the rifle barrel, and the hunter has only to calculate on the trajectory.

The shooting qualities of breech and muzzle-loading guns are subjects of great discussion. The muzzle-loader shoots the strongest and best, particularly with light charges. The greater portion of breech-loading guns will recoil when long, crimped cartridges are used, the crimping appearing to make the difficulty.

The metallic shells, if properly charged, shoot stronger and with less recoil than the crimped paper ones; yet the metal shells often stick in the best of guns, and cause much trouble.

Many sportsmen shoot too much shot, and use that which is too coarse. Equal bulk of powder and shot are good proportions, except when shooting very coarse shot, then a few extra pellets may be added. It is necessary to use more powder when shooting cartridges than when using the muzzle-loader. When hunting ruffed grouse in timber, in their wild, shy season, charge the right hand barrel with No. 7 shot, and the left hand barrel with No. 6; use No. 5 shot when shooting pinnated grouse on the prairies.

When selecting a gun have length and bend of stock to fit, as no one can mould himself to an awkward gun and do good shooting.





THE SETTER.

DOGS, AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS.

The setter seems to be the favorite dog, and, if good looks are a recommendation, he certainly ought not to be among the least of man's best friends. Rather heavy in build, but light of foot, he is ready to follow the sportsman, and wags his bushy tail, and gives a dog's impatient whine, when gun and game-bag suggest the day's sport. With the greatest of delight he brings the game, but, to his discredit, will occasionally chew it. He hunts the English snipe to perfection, and will retrieve well from water; but, as it is seldom necessary to do so, this trait is not often brought into play. He is of an excitable nature, and, failing to obey a hunter's commands, often needs to be corrected; he is also possessed of a certain amount of stubbornness, which has to be overcome.

With his heavy coat the setter does not mind the cold, and in hunting suffers but little inconvenience from briars or nettles. He hunts well in marshes, or thick cover, and may be run constantly from the Fourth of July to the moulting season. He is susceptible to heat, and often needs a cooling bath; but, if allowed to go to the kennel with

soaked coat, becomes chilled, and often sick. The setter is more subject to disease than some other breeds, and requires careful attention. Socially, we cannot speak well of him, for he dislikes children, is fractious to strangers, and often bites.



HEAD OF POINTER.

THE POINTER.

The pointer, though having many admirers, seems to be somewhat at a discount with sportsmen ; but his unusual intelligence, gentle manner, and quick, yet quiet and effective hunting, will always be great recommendations in his favor. He hunts carefully, gets nearer to the game than the setter, and seldom chews a bird. Having short and thin hair, he cannot endure great cold, or come in contact with briars or nettles ; but in hilly country, and open cover, he has no superior in hunting grouse, and will also follow the quail carefully, and bring many to the hunter's bag. He is not stubborn, learns much easier than the setter, remembers the things taught him, and is friendly toward strangers and children.

THE SPANIEL.

Although possessing much intelligence and

beauty, the spaniel is not as great a favorite with the sportsman as the setter or pointer. His scent is not keen, and he is a poor hunter, except in retrieving from water. His aptness in learning tricks, and intelligence in performing them, however, make him a household pet.

THE HOUND.

The stubbornness of the hound is equal to or exceeds that of the mule. One real ability which he has, is successful thieving; this appears to be his chief characteristic. His keen nose never fails to direct him to the nearest steaks or roasts of beef, and they are seized without the slightest hesitation. He never knows the pangs of hunger when there is venison in the camp, and is so quiet and cunning that his movements are not suspected. He can endure the greatest extremes of heat and cold, often lying by the camp-fire, where it would be impossible to hold one's hand; then going out in the intense cold, will hunt the fox or deer through snow a foot deep. Hunters get out of patience with him, and give him many butts and kicks, but all to no purpose. When led in still-hunting, he sees fit to "give mouth" when the twigs rebound and sting his large ears, and also gives vent to his feelings when coming in contact with briars. Apparently for entertainment, he will cross on contrary sides of trees, and insist upon your coming around his way; and if he gets under a log or fallen timber, you must either get

down on your knees and follow, or untie the knot of his cord at your belt, or remove his collar, securing him at the same time by the skin of the neck. Should you attempt to hold him by the ear, he will draw away and pull until painful, and then howl with all his might.

The hound serves a purpose at times, however, in hunting, as he will drive the moose, deer, fox, hare and rabbit with great persistency, and often gives bruin a good rub. He will find a wounded deer when the hunter is at fault, and pull it down fiercely. Hounds are clannish, and when attacking large animals, fight savagely in a body. They are not quarrelsome, but if molested by other dogs, will fight as long as strength lasts.

DISTEMPER.

Young dogs are subject to distemper, and it usually sets in when they are from three to nine months old. It begins with a cold in the head, want of appetite, and weakness in the back and hind legs. In two or three days the dog begins to snuffle, the eyes to run, and the nose discharges a greenish substance. The coat loses its gloss, the legs become cold, and the whole body has a strong and disagreeable odor; fits then follow, and the dog wanders stupidly, trembling and disconsolate; this is the worst stage of the disease, and often terminates fatally. The distemper is really an excessive cold, which settles into a kind of consumption.

When a dog is attacked, castor oil should be given, and powdered sulphur mixed with his food, or given in pills; calomel, in small doses, is often beneficial. The dog should be given light, warm diet, and never be allowed to get chilled; a warm bath, and free use of castile soap or ammonia, is often very effective. The distemper is more or less contagious, and a sportsman cannot watch his pack too carefully.

HUNTING QUAIL.

The quail is common from Massachusetts to Florida, and from the Atlantic coast to the Western prairies. They are gregarious, except in the breeding season. The quail is the most prolific of American game birds, often having two broods in a season; small birds are often killed late in November. When the young are hatched they soon run about, and grow rapidly; when grown, they collect in a bevy, generally roosting in a ring with their heads turned out; their favorite resting place being the bottom of a swamp, or under the lee side of a fallen tree or stone wall. Late in the Fall they retire to the swamps, and feed on the large seeds of the skunk cabbage, which they eat greedily.

Bob-white varies in his neat little dress, in the different localities which he inhabits. In Texas he is small and dark-colored, in Florida a trifle lighter and larger, in Massachusetts, and west to Illinois, he is a large, plump, light-colored bird.

In October the shooting season begins, the flocks are scattered, the odd birds are put up from the hedges and the margins of swamps, and shot before the pointer and setter. The pointer hunts more carefully than the setter, is mild, and much more easily handled.

A light double-barreled gun, loaded with three drachms of powder and an ounce of No. 8 shot, is best for shooting quail. When a bevy is suddenly flushed, the hunter must not bang away recklessly at the thickest of the flock, for in this way scarcely a bird is ever killed; to make a good bag, a proper distance should be chosen and a bird selected for every shot. Quail are generally found in open country, and they need not be split with a charge of shot a few yards from the muzzle of the gun; unlike the snipe that go twisting about, they fly straight and give the best shots.

GEESE.

On the prairies, the wild geese collect in large flocks on the wheat stubbles; they feed and wander about like tame ones, going to the water to rest at night, and where there are large ponds or lakes, the Canada goose and many of his companions may often be found. On the Atlantic coast, wild geese resort to the lettuce beds of the bays.

When a flock of geese are found, their course of flying must be noticed, and the hunter should locate as near them as possible, before daylight. If there is sufficient cover, dress a boat with grass,

and lie in the middle of a lake with decoys, or get on some point under cover of a blind, and watch for the coming light. The break of day is the signal for a general dispersing of water-fowl, and one can hear the "honk—honk!" of the goose, the "curr-r-r-ronk!" of the brant, the "quack!" of the black duck and the mallard, the plover's whistle, and the sharp notes of the yellow-leg, and other sandpipers. The various flocks take wing, passing and repassing previous to settling on the feeding grounds, and as they come in easy range of the gunner, many geese and other fowl are cut down. In aiming for a goose coming straight toward a gunner, the shot will take better effect if the bird is allowed to just pass by. In shooting from a box, one can often let birds alight to the decoys, and cut them down as they are going away.

Geese collect, to dress their plumage, on sandbars in some of the great rivers of the west, and while thus occupied, are good marks for the rifle. Geese rival the loon in diving and swimming under water, and, when wounded, a shot should be given at every opportunity, as they will evade the gunner when there is cover or sea room.

DUCKS.

Thirty-four species of ducks have been killed in North America, and of that number twenty-four species are numerous and common in the United States. Most of them are found on the Atlantic

border, though a few species are found only near the western and northern coasts.

The fresh water ducks are the best eating, the mallard and wood-duck standing at the head of the list. The well-known canvas-back, of the Chesapeake, brings the highest price, but many prefer the mallard.

Ducks are hunted in many ways, the most destructive being to "fire-light" or "jack" them, and a still, dark night is generally chosen. A large lantern, with a powerful reflector, is fastened on the bow of a boat, so the rays will be thrown straight ahead, leaving the boat concealed in the intense darkness behind the glare of the lantern. The gunner crouches in the boat, behind the light, and keeps a sharp lookout, while his companion sculls him quietly along until birds are sighted. The boat is then propelled silently within easy range, and, as the ducks huddle, a heavy charge of shot is fired into the thickest of the flock, and many birds are often killed.

When first observed, the ducks appear white, those of the darkest colors being the most conspicuous. When the light is first thrown on the ducks, they swim from side to side, in a zig-zag course, looking back curiously at the strange phenomenon, but finally slacken their speed, and huddle until fired at; then some dive, others take wing and fly hurriedly away.

The old squaws, or long-tailed ducks, are particularly stupid at times, and can be approached

within a few yards. Many loons and grebes are killed by fire-lighting, as the glare of the lantern deadens the flash of the gun, and prevents them from diving in time to evade the shot. A heavy double-barreled gun, charged with No. 4 or No. 5 shot, is best for night shooting. The concussion from the first shot of the first barrel usually puts out the light, so the second barrel must be shot quickly, before the ducks have a chance to change their position. The dead birds, if not collected at once, soon drift out of sight, particularly when there is a breeze.

The box or battery is often used in shallow water on the feeding grounds of water-fowl; it should be long and narrow, and just large enough to conceal a man in a reclining position. The following is a description of a box which is often used successfully: Sheet lead, about six inches wide, is nailed on top and around the edges of the box, and bent slightly upward to prevent a choppy sea from slopping into the box on the gunner. From the sides of the box wings run out several yards, to stop the action of the waves, and prevent them from blowing in on the hunter; the portion of the wings nearest the box are made of half-inch boards and connected to the box with leather hinges, so they will play with the action of the waves; the rest of the wings outside the boards should be made of canvas tacked on a frame-work of slats, to keep it spread to the fullest extent. The slats should also be connected with leather hinges, so they will

work with the water. The bow must be weighted or sunk nearly even with the surface of the water, and a few solid, cast decoys will be found useful to lay on the battery to assist in sinking it. When shooting from a battery, one hundred decoys, put out a few yards from the wings of the box, are not too many, and more may be used where large flocks are feeding.

A short, heavy breech-loader is most suitable to shoot with from a battery, and the birds should be allowed to alight to the decoys, then flushed, and shot as they rise and fly, for the shot takes the best effect when the ducks are retreating. Early in the morning, on good hunting grounds, one can shoot from a battery almost as fast as a gun can be loaded. A man in a sneak-boat ought to lay off to leeward of the battery and pick up the birds when they have drifted far away from the gunner.

The success of a battery greatly depends on its color; it should be painted a bluish-green, or it will look black and frighten the ducks. A few live decoys greatly increase the gunner's sport. They should be placed near the battery, between the wooden decoys and the gunner. Live herring-gulls are even better than live ducks. The ducks know the shy nature of the herring-gull, and will pitch to stools of their own species without suspicion, relying on the wary gulls to give the alarm when danger threatens. The herring-gulls also act as sentinels for seals when basking and sleeping on the rocks, and they have often given a drove of

seals the alarm when being stalked under cover of the rocks, off the Nova Scotia coast.

Stooling from points under a lee shore is a very successful way to hunt ducks on a windy day. Decoys are placed about twenty yards from the shore, and the gunner is concealed near by in a sneak-boat or blind.

Pass shooting is indulged in on rivers and connecting lakes; the gunner is stationed near a narrow channel or gut, where he keeps a sharp lookout for passing birds. In favorable localities, this affords exciting sport.

Sailing after ducks in a good breeze is another way of hunting them in open water; the helmsman beats to windward of a flock, and then comes down on them with a stark sheet. They will wait until the boat is almost within shooting distance before taking wing, and, as they usually start against the wind, are soon within range of the rapidly approaching boat. When ducks are constantly hunted with a sail-boat, they soon become wild and leave the bays.

Ducks should be drawn as soon as killed, and their intestines removed with a small hooked wire.

WOODCOCK.

A crack at a woodcock is the sportsman's first treat of the season. Hunting commences on the 4th of July, and in the sweltering heat, through the thickest of cat-briars and alder-bushes, the hunter takes one swale after another until boring

is found. In wet weather, the woodcock is hunted in more agreeable cover, and is cut down easily as he goes whistling over waving corn, or takes wing from the cool cover of rushes. Woodcock come with the April showers, and collect and mate at evening. Theirs is a strange concourse as they come to the openings in the sprouts, and the chippering notes of the males, as they arise and descend, have a significance of their own. They rise, with hovering motion, vertically in the air, to a certain height, then hang with fluttering wings for a moment, and descend slowly until within a few feet of the ground, when they suddenly pitch downward. First one and then another ascends, and as each one reaches the ground, a battle ensues among the jealous males; but peace is declared at last, and each newly-mated pair go in search of a place to lay their eggs. The young, when two months old, are nearly as large as the adult bird; they have not the instinct to hide, like the chicks of grouse and quail, but with faint cries of alarm, wander away from the intruder, and squat at a few yards' distance. They are the most simple of American game-birds, and their curious habits will always be a study for sportsmen.

A light, short double-barreled gun should be used for woodcock, charged with two and one-half drachms of powder and one ounce of No. 10 shot; if a gun with small bore is used, the charge can be slightly lessened. The woodcock is easily killed, a single shot bringing it down. Their flesh is

tender, and in hot weather heavy loads lacerate the bird, and in discharging give the sportsman a headache; a mutilated bird will spoil in the pocket in a few hours. A small ice-box, carried in a buggy, will amply repay the sportsman in the preservation of birds, and a nicely kept lunch and cool drink are a treat best known to those who have indulged in the luxury.

Later in the season the hunting becomes more pleasant, the weather is cooler, and the birds are found in more open woods. In the fall they are found in scrub-oaks, hardwood timber, and in a broken country on the south side of mountains and hills. With a well-broken pointer or setter the sport is exciting, as the birds are easily marked and killed. There are certain resting grounds where the sportsman often bags a dozen birds in half-an-hour. There are several such places at the foot of the Orange mountains, in New Jersey, where, in the fall, after a driving rain-storm, birds are almost always to be found.

In favorable cover, both the pointer and setter work well, and it is a difficult matter which to make choice of. In thick cover, it is well to run a dog with a small bell attached to the collar, the tinkling of which will tell where he is working. When the sound ceases, he is "pointing," and the hunter knows how to locate the dog and prepare for a shot. The bell is not necessary for fall shooting, but it is well to use it in nettle cover and willows.

As the woodcock begin to moult, the sportsmen

say: "There are no birds—they have gone to moult;" and one might conclude they had left the country to change their plumage. The sportsman who beats the same kind of cover the whole season comes short in calculation; but the ornithologist, in his various researches, knows where to find the woodcock at all seasons. When the moulting commences, the birds frequent the thickest cover, and do not return to the open to bore at night, as in July and early August. The greater portion retire to the mountains and hills, and moult in quietude in thickets of briars, among cedars and juniper bushes. When the moulting is over, they return to their old haunts to recruit, and when the fall rains begin, they scatter, and are found in varying cover. As the season advances and the nights become cold, the woodcock begin to migrate southward, and make their longest flights during rainy nights. They will sometimes settle, but for a few moments only, taking wing again with great speed, as if impatient to get as far as possible during wet weather.

ENGLISH SNIPE.

The Wilson snipe furnish a few weeks' sport in the spring, when all other game birds are not hunted. As soon as the frost leaves the ground, the sportsman frees his favorite setter from the chain, and master and dog enter the marsh, zealously beating every spring hole and margins of creeks, listening, as they proceed, for the "scape—scape!" of the first rising snipe.

In April, they are found in the salt marshes in considerable numbers, yet their favorite feeding-grounds are the rich, loamy meadows watered by boiling springs. A driving rain from the south brings a flight of birds which migrate both day and night. In rainy weather they are often seen suddenly pitching from a height in the air to a marsh below, like the field or upland plover, and appearing, from their direct descent, to have dropped from the sky.

The English snipe is the most difficult of all game birds to break a dog on, but in trial the setter is preferable. Three drachms of powder, and one ounce of No. 10 shot is a proper charge for snipe, though some sportsmen use Nos. 7 and 8 sometimes, killing "long shots," but often missing many birds. When flushed, the snipe takes a rapid, zig-zag course low over the meadow, often escaping the hunter who may be shooting from an insecure bog. Snipe are most abundant where the soil is most aggravating, and it requires considerable agility to traverse a quagmire. One must leap from bog to bog, with the treacherous soil threatening to give way beneath, and where a false step would sink him half his length in the blackest of mud.

The Wilson snipe is a quiet, solitary bird, that comes and goes, in many localities, without its presence being known; the greatest portion of them breed in the fresh marshes of the north and west, and we have found them with their young,

in June, in Maine and Massachusetts. They pair like sandpipers, but whether the male assists in rearing the young or not, we are unable to say.

BAY BIRDS.

Bay birds consist of the curlews, godwits, plovers and sandpipers. In August the first shrill notes of the small yellow-legs arouse the sportsman, and shortly after come the little ring-neck, piping plovers, and the small sandpipers. As the nights grow chilly, the musical notes of the golden and black-breasted plovers are heard, often in chorus with the loud, clear whistle of the greater yellow-legs. Occasionally the will-will-willet sounds over the meadows, and the notes of a passing flock of sickle-bills and jack curlews are heard. As the countless numbers of waders skim along the sea-shore, hastening to the south, they are continually cut down when stopping for a moment to rest or settle to the gunners' stools. In some localities there are sometimes seen such perfect clouds of small birds—sandpipers and ring-necks—that a few shots will fill the hunter's pockets.

There is no regularity about the flight of bay birds, and the first cold, driving rain sends them south in hurried, scattering flocks. The curlews often fly in figures, like geese, and settle on sand-bars, which they bore with their long bills in search of small marine animals. A heavy storm usually sends the plovers inland, on corn-stubbles and plowed land. All the waders can be easily whistled

to stools, and in reach of the shot-gun, if the gunner is concealed. The yellow-legs may be called as far as the hunter's whistle can be heard, and it is seldom they refuse to be drawn to destruction. A breech-loader is of most value for shooting on the coast, as rapid firing is often necessary. It requires but little skill to kill bay birds, as a good stand is all that is necessary. The stools should be watched sharply, as the flight of birds along the sea-shore is low and rapid. The best time to shoot is just when a flock is about to settle; the survivors usually turn in the air, and immediately after "bunch," giving the sportsman a chance for a second raking shot. The coasts of Massachusetts, Long Island, Virginia and Florida seem to be the best localities on the Atlantic borders for shooting bay birds, as in those localities the passing flocks linger to feed. Bay birds, from the large sickle-bill to the tiny sandpiper, are found on the northern prairie. They are seen in thousands around the ponds and marshes formed by the surface water of the plains; also water-fowl of many species. In such localities one has but to secrete himself on the edge of a marsh, and send a fellow hunter to stir up the flocks. In this way both gunners are kept busy shooting at the scattering bunches of birds as they circle about. Many species are found in one flock, five kinds of waders having been killed at one shot. The large curlews walk about the dry prairie, like miniature ostriches, in search of insects, the young following.

SHARP-TAIL GROUSE.

This bird is more generally known as the pin-tail grouse, and is very common in Minnesota, west to the Rocky Mountains, and north into the British Provinces. In the "Whoop up" country on the upper Missouri and Milk rivers, they are found associating with sage hens in immense flocks, and the startling *cuck—cuck—cuck* of the rising pin-tails, is about the only sound that breaks the stillness of the northern prairies. They are often killed as far south as Clear Creek and along the South Platte river in Colorado, and hunters sometimes shoot them much farther south. Pin-tail grouse are usually found in bottoms where there is brush, or on the prairies near the edge of woods. They will tree like ruffed grouse, and retire to the forest to "bud" in winter. The best mode of hunting them is with a well-trained pointer or setter, and they afford more exciting sport than the prairie hens. Their flesh is not as gamy as that of the pinnated species, being medium between that and the ruffed grouse; the young of the pin-tail grouse are excellent eating, and they make an agreeable change from the dry meat of the antelope when crossing the plains.

RABBITS AND HARES.

The gray rabbit is common in New England, along the Atlantic coast, west into Rocky Mountains, and probably to the Pacific coast. In northern Minnesota this species is seldom seen, but the

common, or Canadian, or white hare is very numerous. Some of the rabbits in Colorado are perfect martyrs to fleas; when shot, their ears are often covered with them, and their eyes sore from their bites.

The best time to hunt the gray rabbit is after a light snow; the runways should be manned, a hound turned loose, and silent watch kept for the rabbit. When started, he usually runs in a circle, or, if the woods are narrow, doubles on the dog, for the rabbits will hold if hard pressed, particularly in the winter. In the fall, when rains have settled the leaves, the rabbit can be successfully hunted with dogs, and his "cotton-tail" makes a conspicuous mark for a running shot; a shrill whistle will bring the rabbit to a stand, if the hunter prefers a sitting shot.

When still-hunting, a sharp stamp on logs or brush will often bring to sight a frightened cony. A light, double-barreled gun, charged with three drachms of powder and one and a quarter ounces of No. 6 shot, is suitable for good shooting. The white rabbits or hares are becoming scarce in many places; they breed slowly, having but two or three young ones in a year. In the settled districts they generally frequent tamarack swamps. They are hunted with hounds, and the eastern hare will seldom; if ever, hole; but in Minnesota, in severe weather, the hares will often burrow, and remain for the day. They are usually found in willow and popple shoots, and the hunter is first attracted

by the black margins of their ears and their dark eyes, as they peep from the cover of blinds. On a white ground they are good "bull's-eyes" for close shooting.

Rabbits should be dressed as soon as killed, else they soon spoil in pocket or game-bag.

SQUIRRELS.

The squirrel, like the cat, may be said to have nine lives, for if he can fasten but one claw in a limb he will not fall until perforated with shot holes, or until his hold is cut loose by a crack shot from a rifle. When a squirrel is treed, it is useless to run about looking on every side for him, as he flattens his body closely to a limb or the trunk, and manages to keep the latter between the hunter and himself. Sometimes he will run out on a large limb and lie so close that only his nose is visible, and the hunter can shoot in vain. It is advisable to have one of a party of squirrel hunters carry a rifle, for in shooting a little low, a squirrel can be "lifted" from where a shot-gun could scarcely reach him. When two or three excited hunters are aiming to get the first shot at a treed squirrel, if one has the presence of mind to select a good position and stand still, the squirrel will be frightened on to his side of the tree by the hunters opposite, and sure aim can then be taken.

The best time to hunt squirrels is when they are gathering their winter store of nuts, acorns, etc. They commence when nuts fall to the ground, and

in their eagerness to secure a supply, come out from their hiding-places many times during the day. Later in the season, when nuts are scarce, the hunter should be on the ground at daylight to shoot the squirrels as they come forth to bask in the first rays of the sun. The habits of the fox squirrel or "red bones," are similar to those of the gray squirrel, and they may be hunted in the same way.

If the squirrel hunter prefers a breech-loader, the Ballard rifle is the best; if a shot-gun is used, it should be of small bore and solid, charged with three and one-half drachms of powder and one and one-fourth ounces of No. 6 shot. Guns ought always to be clean, and tight-fitting wads used.



TRAPS.

NORWEGIAN DEADFALL.

THE Norwegian deadfall is easily made, and a sure trap for small animals. It is a good trap for mink, marten, and weasels, and rainy weather is not detrimental to its workings, as it has no spring pole or cords to be affected by dampness. It may be made as follows: lay a large pole or small trunk of a tree over a log, with the butt end fastened to the ground by stakes or stones; for the deadfall, place a heavier stick under and parallel with the projecting pole, with one end resting against some object so it cannot slip backward. Two wires fastened to the deadfall, one to connect with the

trigger and the other to catch the animal. One end of the trigger wire should be twisted firmly around the deadfall, and the other end around the trigger near the end not holding the bait, as the strain must be as far away from the bait as possible, so it be easily raised, and the trap sprung. Two short wedges, or pins, in the upper log, hold the trigger in position; fasten the bait on the trigger, and raise the lower log until the spindle can be placed over the pegs, when the weight of the log will hold it in position. Fasten the other wire around both logs, and to the lower one by a small staple or notch, holding the upper part of the wire in position by staples or pegs so it will not slip down the log when the trap is sprung. This trap may be built very light for weasels, but for larger animals, as skunks, "possums" or raccoons, a heavy deadfall is necessary.

FIGURE 4 DEADFALL.

The figure 4 deadfall is generally used for mink, and is "as old as the hills." To make it, drive two rows of stakes about a foot apart, using for a deadfall a log that will drop loosely between them, hewing one end flat and diagonally across so it cannot turn; let it butt against stakes, rocks or trees, to prevent its moving back when being set. Use a long spindle, and let the extreme end of the log rest on the trigger when set. Bait with the head of a ruffed grouse or rabbit, a bird or a fish.

A figure 4 can be set with a large flat stone, and if for muskrats, bait with sweet apple or parsnip.

GROUND SNARE.

The ground snare is quickly set, and it is not necessary to have a hedge or pen to guide the game into it. Its parts are so simple that it is not necessary to explain how to set it. Waxed fish-line is generally used for the ground snare, as its position on the ground prevents it from twisting out of shape as when suspended. Horse hair is sometimes used, but it is difficult to get it long enough, as a very large noose is required. The lower end of the trigger should be lightly caught against the spindle, so that a slight touch will cause the spindle to fall and spring the snare. A long, limber spring-pole is best for this snare, as it retains its elasticity much better than a short one, and is more successful in securing game.

HEDGE SNARE.

The hedge snare is one of the most destructive known. A low hedge is built across a ravine, wood, or piece of sprouts, where ruffed grouse and gray rabbits resort. Small gateways are staked out a few yards apart, and snares set across them. Small copper wire, or horse hair, is used for nooses, which are fastened to the cross-piece of wood, the flattened ends of which rest in the notches of the two inside stakes; the spring-pole is connected to the cross-piece by a stout piece of cord. No bait is used, and the snare

is sure to take the game when passing through from either side, as the cross trigger works both ways. A ruffed grouse will walk a long distance before attempting to cross a hedge a foot high, and pass through the gates, to be jerked into the air out of the reach of skunks and foxes until the trapper arrives. Skunks are often caught in hedge snares, and it requires a strong horse-hair noose and a stiff pole to raise their heavy bodies clear from the ground.

LOG SNARE.

The log snare is used to catch the young male ruffed grouse, when drumming in the fall. Make a gateway by crossing two long stakes over a log, driving them into the ground. Set the spring-pole in a deep notch in a stake, and use a small horse-hair snare. This snare can be rigged on a ledge, or on any object where the grouse drum.

FIGURE 4 SNARE.

Next comes the figure 4 snare, which is placed on the ground. The stake must be driven in firmly, or it will become loose and draw from the earth, as there is much strain on it. The stake should be squared on two sides, and fitted to a deep shoulder in the spindle, as it is more likely to turn out of position than when used with the downfall. Tie the string from the pole to the upper end of the trigger, so the strain at the spindle will be light, and the trap easily sprung.

This snare is most successful in taking grouse, gray rabbits and hares.

STOVE-PIPE TRAP.

This trap will catch muskrats, mink, and weasels. It is the most successful trap for muskrats ever used. It resets itself when the wire door falls behind a rat, and sometimes several will be taken from one trap at once. The trap should be set under the water, with one end in the rat's burrow, or be placed in a gateway, in two inches of water; a gate can be made by placing drift-wood or bushes against stakes or stones, forming a barrier, a small gate being left for inserting the trap. The muskrats drown soon after entering the trap, when it is set in their holes below the surface of the water.

The trap is made by hammering a length of stove-pipe into a square shape; the doors are of medium-sized wire, and work on two pieces of heavy wire run through opposite holes in the sides of the pipe, near the top.

BOWL TRAP.

This simple contrivance will rid a house of mice by keeping it set until the mice disappear. The edge of a bowl or box should rest lightly on the margin of a large thimble, or bowl of a clay pipe, crammed solid full of bread or cheese. The mouse goes under the bowl, and when attempting to eat the bait, pushes the support from under the bowl, making itself a prisoner.

TRAPPING THE WOODCHUCK.

The most successful way of taking the woodchuck is by setting a No. 1 or No. 2 trap in his hole near the mouth; a slight cavity should be scooped out to receive the trap, and its jaws and spring covered with loose earth; grass or leaves may be placed over the pan, but it is not necessary, as the woodchuck is bound to go in and out of his burrow at evening and at daylight, and often during the day. When caught, the woodchuck digs up the earth about the mouth of its hole in endeavoring to escape, but finally retires down the burrow, the length of the chain, and remains quiet. It often occurs that the hole is so obstructed with loose roots by the digging of the woodchuck, that the chain becomes entangled, and it is difficult to drag the trapped animal from his retreat; a large hook, with a long, sharp projecting point, fastened to a stick, will be found useful in removing trapped animals from burrows and other holes; the hook should be placed under the throat, and a sudden jerk will send it through the animal's head, killing it instantly, and putting it out of misery.

The woodchuck usually burrows in or near orchards, or pastures. He prefers to burrow under the protecting stump of an old apple tree, or under a stone wall or rock. When cornered, the woodchuck gives a low, clear, trembling whistle, which can be heard quite a distance; he also has a

habit of chattering his teeth savagely when about to be attacked. An adult woodchuck will often keep a dog at bay for a short time, until he is seized by the back in an unguarded moment, when he is soon killed by his more powerful enemy.

Clover, grass, apples and green corn, are the woodchuck's chief articles of food, and, like the raccoon, he becomes very fat, and hibernates in the fall; he disappears early, and remains all winter. His flesh is not unpalatable if the kernels are removed from the shoulders, and his hide makes the toughest of leather. Many woodchucks are shot with the rifle, and their habit of sitting straight up at the mouth of their holes makes them a conspicuous mark.

TRAPPING THE RACCOON.

In Florida, the raccoon is easily taken with the figure 4 deadfall, baited with a small fish; but the northern raccoon winks his eye at any such a contrivance.

The raccoon has his regular hunting grounds and crossings over fields and fences, through swamps and over stone walls; he follows the banks of small streams in search of frogs, insects and fish; he rests and breeds in hollow trees and ledges, and the trapper will find a variety of places to set his traps. When the corn is sweet and milky, the raccoons pull down the ears and devour it greedily. They have well-beaten trails leading from the timber to corn-fields, and traps can be set on them,

baited with flesh, fish, corn or bread, or without baits. The best place to set traps in the fall is along the streams. The No. 2 trap should be used, and lightly covered; a fish or frog, or the body of a bird, plucked, must be *hung* over the trap, for if it is put on a pointed stick they will pull it down at once, and often fail to step on the trap. Traps set for raccoons may be staked, as they seldom amputate their feet; the traps, when set, should be drenched with water, to remove the scent of the trapper, as the long nose of the raccoon is very keen.

They are nocturnal ramblers, and in summer wander about in search of young birds, eggs, reptiles, insects and roots, until nuts are ripe, when they are mostly found in hardwood timber; they feed greedily on chestnuts, acorns of white oak, and beech nuts. In autumn they become very fat, and when the first deep snow falls, hibernate in hollow trees, loose rocks and ledges. They come out during warm spells, and at such times wander about in search of food, often changing their place of hibernation. The raccoon has a curious habit of rolling its food and small objects on the soles of its feet, the reason of which no one seems to understand. In the northern United States they run very large, and are dark-colored, some being almost black. Their pelts make the best of robes and coats, and their fat is used by the hunters for shortening, and is good for greasing boots and guns.

ANGLING.

THE ROD.

FOR bottom fishing the most useful rod is one usually denominated the bag rod, and is made of either bamboo or cane; the latter is preferable for roach fishing, as it is both light and stiff, but not strong enough for the many purposes to which the former can be applied, such as trolling, etc.

The rod usually consists of nine joints, about two feet four inches long, eight of which form a roach rod about eighteen feet long, fit for all the purposes for which the bag rod is mentioned; the other is a strong top that fits into the sixth joint, and forms a trolling rod about fifteen feet long, which is quite sufficient for that purpose, although it is advantageous at times to have a whalebone top, about ten inches long, to fit into the small joint (instead of the roach top) to use for perch, or occasionally for spinning a minnow; this top is stiffer than the roach top.

For general purposes a rod of about twelve feet in length is the most convenient; but, in wide rivers, fifteen or eighteen feet rods are required.

A bamboo rod, with several tops of different degrees of strength, is exceedingly well adapted for general purposes, but a cane rod surpasses all others for fine fishing.

The reel, or winch, must be always looked upon

as an important accessory to the angler; and its great characteristics are lightness, strength, and plainness.

There are many descriptions of reels—plain, stop, and multiplying ones.

The plain reel is the best, because of its simplicity, and the noiseless manner with which it acts; it seldom gets out of order, and, if an accident occurs to it, it is easily put to rights; and it costs little. The best reels are those in which the handle is fixed in the side-plate of the reel-drum, as by this method a very ugly crank may be dispensed with.



LINES AND HOOKS.

THE TACKLE.

THE best and most serviceable lines made are horse-hair, for those composed of hair and silk, from retaining the water, soon become rotten.

Good lines should be perfectly twisted, round, and even, and no irregularities; the color a light grey, or brown, or white, which, perhaps, are the most useful of colors.

The bottom, or casting line, for fly-fishing, which is affixed to the line on the reel, must be of gut at the top, and very fine at the dropper or bottom, and before any flies are made upon it, it should be picked and tried to see that it is of uniform thickness throughout. It is never worth a lad's while to attempt manufacturing fishing-lines, as they may be always purchased more neatly fabri-

cated, and even at a much cheaper rate than he could by any possibility contrive to make them.

When preparing, fasten the line on the rod by the loop of the line, passing it through the ring at the top joint, carrying it over the ferrule, and then draw it up to the top again, by which plan it will be secured. Of *hooks* there are four kinds—the Limerick, the Kendal, the Kirby, and the Sneckbend. Which fashion and shape is the best, is a question very difficult to settle, as almost every angler has a predilection in favor of one sort, to the prejudice of all others. They greatly vary in length in the shanks, to suit the several purposes they are intended for; for worm fishing, a long-shanked hook is preferable, being perfectly round in the bend, so that neither barb nor point inclines inward.

When fishing with gentles, paste, or any bait of that description, a short-shanked Sneckbend hook is preferable, as it covers best, and is the securest.

KNOTS.

A sailor's knot is a very useful one upon any emergency, but the following one is considerably neater.

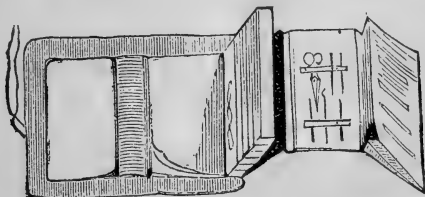
Cross the two ends between the left thumb and the forefinger, pointing the end toward the left lying at the top of the other; it is then bent backward to the other end toward the body, until the ends meet in an opposite direction underneath; a simple hitch is made with the two ends; on pulling

the long pieces a secure knot is made, which may be separated when done without injuring the line, or it may be whipt or varnished.

The most secure knot is the one called the weaver's. The ends are crossed between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, but the end pointing to the right in this case must lie at the top; the piece belonging to the opposite end is then carried over the thumb, at the back of the left end, and brought between the two ends, until it can be held between the finger and the thumb, and the right end is passed through the loop.

ANGLER'S POCKET-BOOK.

The Angler's Pocket-Book is a very useful article, and is very like a tailor's pattern book, and possesses, like a good coat, a variety of pockets.



ANGLER'S POCKET-BOOK.

When open, it will present the appearance seen in the engraving. It may be had at the usual shops, and of course, according to the size and articles contained, varies in price.

THE PLUMMET.

This is not only a useful, but a necessary article

for the angler, as it is always indispensable to ascertain the depth of the stream.

Roll a thin piece of sheet lead into the shape of a cone, then uncoil a small portion, and wrap it around the hook; then carefully and silently drop it into the water.

QUILL FLOATS.

Floats can be procured ready made of all sizes and prices. For small fish and sluggish streams, the porcupine, swan, goose, or Muscovy duck quill floats are the best; but in strong or rapid rivers cork floats will be found the most serviceable.

BAITS.

The ash-grub is found in the rotten bark of a tree which has been felled some time; it is an excellent bait for grayling, chub, dace, or roach, and may be used all the year around. It should be kept in wheat bran.

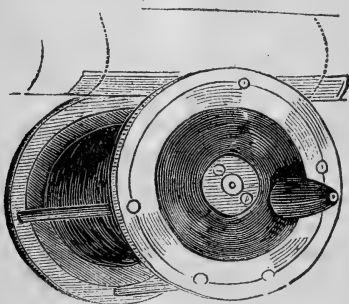
The brandling, or gilt tail, is found in old dung hills, tanner's bark, rotten earth, and cow's dung. It is an admirable bait for perch, tench, bream, gudgeon, and indeed for almost any kind of fish.

The cabbage worm is a good bait for chub, dace, roach, or trout.

The locality of the crab-tree worm is indicated by its name. It is a good bait for roach, dace, trout, and chub.

Flag or dock worms inhabit the fibres of flag-roots in old pits or ponds. They are excellent baits for tench, bream, bleak, grayling, carp, perch, dace and roach.

Gentles, or maggots, are bred by hanging up a piece of meat until it putrefies; they should be kept on flesh, and when they have arrived at their full size, a little bran and damp sand may be put in the vessel in which they are immured, for the purpose of scouring them; they will be fit for use in a day or two, and are tempting bait for all kinds of fish. When putting a gentle on the hook, you must insert the hook at one end of it, and bring it



PLAIN REEL.

(For description see page 37.)

out at the other, and then draw the gentle back until it completely covers the point of the hook.

The tag-tail may be procured in meadows or chalky lands, after rain, or in the morning, during the month of March or April; it is accounted a good bait for trout in cloudy weather, or when the water is muddy.

White grubs or white bait, are much larger

than gentles, and may be found in sandy and meadow lands.

Wasp-grubs may be taken from the nest; they require to be hardened in a warm oven, and will prove a good bait for such fish as will take gentles.

Miller's thumbs, bleaks, minnows, dace, gudgeons, roaches, sticklebacks, smelts, and roach, are used as baits for some of the larger fish.

Grasshoppers are good bait during June, July and August, for roach, grayling, chub, and trout; their legs and wings must be taken off before they are put on the hook.

Salmon spawn is an excellent bait for trout and chub; you may purchase it at the shops ready for use.

GROUND BAIT.

Ground baiting is a most essential part of angling, and ought never to be omitted, as success in bottom or float fishing cannot be expected, unless the proper means for drawing the fish together are resorted to.

For barbel, it is necessary to make the lumps of ground bait large in proportion to the strength of the current in which you fish.

PASTE BAITS.

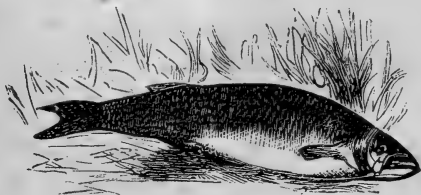
When working up paste baits, be particularly careful to have clean hands, and knead your pastes thoroughly, so that all the materials may be well incorporated.

Sheeps' blood and saffron make a good paste for roach, bleak, etc.

For barbel, an excellent paste may be made by dipping the crumb of new white bread in the liquor in which chandlers' greaves have been boiled, adding a little of the greaves, and working it up till it is stiff.

THE ROACH.

This fish is one generally considered easily taken, but it is a great error to suppose so. For this fishing the rod should be long and light, the line of extremely fine gut, and the hook a No. 9 or 10.



ROACH.

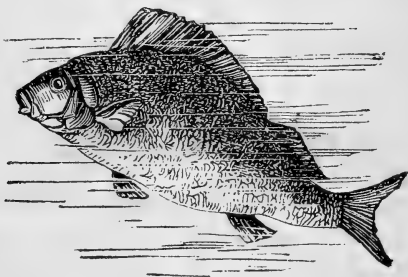
Hold the rod so low that the end of it is not more than fourteen inches above the float, which should have shot attached to it, in order that little more than the eighth of it may ride above the surface, as this species of fish bite so delicately that without you pay the closest attention to your float you will lose four bites out of six. Use a single line, and have a landing-net handy, otherwise you run great risk of losing your fish.

Roach do not generally lie in rapid streams, except in the autumn months, and are always out of

condition until the middle of July. Seek out a gravelly bed in a soft-flowing deep stream. The home of the roach is on the side of deep streams, and under bridges. A paste made of a second days' bread, slightly dipped in water, with a little vermilion added to it, so as to make it the color of salmon, is the best bait for them. In rivers they bite all the year round, in ponds only in summer.

THE PERCH.

This fish is a bold, voracious one, and freely



PERCH.

takes a bait. Strong tackle is necessary in angling for it—a gut or twisted hair line, a cork float, and No. 7 hook.

Marsh, brandling, cabbage, and well-scoured red-worms, maggots, and wasp grubs are excellent bait for this fish.

Ground baits of stewed malt grains, or lob-worms, cut to pieces, should be thrown in the water.

Perch lie near bridges, mill pools, and locks in navigable rivers and canals, and in other streams, near rushes, dark, still holes and eddies, and gravelly parts of rivers.

They spawn in February and March, and may be fished for from April to October; but the best time for them is during April, May and June.

THE JACK OR PIKE

Resembles no other fish in form or color; the head is flat and hard on the top, the jaws large, and full of sharp, strong teeth, as are likewise the throat and tongue, which, inclining inwards, renders it impracticable for any other animal to escape from its angry fangs; the color of its back and sides is grey, mottled with large, irregular spots of a sandy green hue; the belly is lighter, approaching to white.

This fish is one of the best-flavored and highly esteemed of the fresh-water tribe.

It spawns in March or April, and although generally reckoned good from midsummer to the end of the year, it is in its prime in September and October only.

They are numerous in many rivers, canals, lakes, ponds, etc., and are commonly caught up to eight or ten pounds in weight; some grow much larger, and have been known to reach thirty or forty pounds, and when so large they are called pike.

The baits used in fishing for it are roach, dace,

gudgeon, minnows, chub, bleak and young frogs. A bait ought to weigh from one to four ounces.

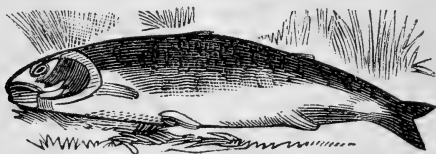
It is a most voracious fish, and when on the feed bites eagerly, being seldom lost from any other cause than not allowing it sufficient time after it runs with the bait to gorge it.

In its food it is not at all particular, as it will take anything down, from a young duck to a leaden plummet.

There are several methods of trolling for this fish, namely; with a *gorge-hook*, which is loaded on the shank with lead; with the *snap-hook*, either spring or plain, composed of three hooks joined together, and numerous others well adapted for the purpose.

THE TROUT.

This fish is the grand object of all anglers' ambition, especially those who delight in fly-fishing.



TROUT.

It is a fish highly valued in all nations; it is a clean, aristocratic fish, that revels not in mud and dirty streams, but loves those that leap and rush over a clear, gravelly bed, and when the verdant spring comes out in her daintiest apparel, Master Trout comes out with her; when the daisy peeps out and the violet perfumes the air, then does

Master Trout show his speckled body in the shallows and rough streams; but during the heat of summer, he runs into deeper water and shady pools. At times he frequents the sharpest rivers, water-falls and mill-falls; then he will feed upon insects, worms and flies, or very small fish, which he pursues with such rapidity as renders it impossible for them to escape.

TROUT FLIES.

The wing of the woodcock, with a single turn of red hackle or landrail feather, dressed with yellow silk freely exposed on the body; but, for fishing in dark-colored waters, dress the fly with scarlet thread.

The ear of the hare, bony, with a corn bunting, or wing of a chaffinch; the wing of the woodcock will also do, if made of a small, light-colored feather taken from the inside of the wing.

The wing the same as the last fly, with a single turn of a soft, black hen hackle, or a feather from the starling's shoulder, dressed with dark-colored silk.

THE CARP.

This is a very cunning fish; indeed, from its extreme craftiness, it has sometimes been styled the water fox. It may be found in lakes, ponds or rivers, and frequents the quietest and deepest parts of the streams, especially holes near flood-gates and beds of weeds. It spawns in May, June and July, and is in season in March and April. The

best time to angle for this fish is either very early or very late, as it seldom bites in the middle of the day, unless a soft shower of rain happens to fall.

Use a long, light rod, with a reel, and let the line be of the finest description; the hook, if worms be employed as bait, should be Nos. 5 or 6; if maggots, Nos. 8 or 9; and if wasp-grubs, No. 7.

THE GUDGEON.

The gudgeon is a very bold-biting fish, and gives much amusement to the angler. It is in season from April to October, and may be taken at any time of the day, particularly in dull weather. The best bait is a blood-worm, and the tackle should be a fine gut or hair line, light cork float, and a No. 9 or 10 hook.

Gudgeons frequent the shallows, where the river is free from weeds, with a gravelly or sandy bottom, which must be often stirred with a rake made for that purpose.

Allow your bait to touch the ground, and before you begin, plum the depth of the stream.

THE BREAM.

The bream is principally found in lakes and still rivers. It may be taken in the spring and summer; but, as it spawns during June and July, it is best to angle for it in May—when it is in its prime—and from the end of July to the end of September; and in these months from sunrise till eight o'clock in the morning, and from five o'clock till dusk in the evening.

Use a gut line, quill float, and No. 10 hook, and let the bait touch the bottom. The baits necessary are well-scoured red-worms, maggots, flag-worms, and brandlings.

Use lob-worms cut in pieces, and grains as ground baits, before you commence angling.

The angler should be very silent, keep from the edge of the water as much as possible, and strike the instant the float is drawn under the surface of the water.

THE DACE.

The dace is found in most rivers. It is a handsome fish, and is generally accounted light and nourishing food.

The hook should be a size larger than for roach, but in all other respects the tackle may be the same. Use a ground-bait of bran and clay mixed, and throw it into the water frequently while angling.

Dace will take red-worms, maggots, wasp grubs, greaves, and a paste made of cheese and honey; they are partial to red-worms in the spring, and in the summer, if you use gentles, put two at a time on the hook; a small piece of greaves with a gentle is also a very good bait.

You may begin fishing for them in March, and they continue in season till October; after that time they seldom bite unless the weather is very mild.

THE GRAYLING.

The grayling is an extremely beautiful fish, and inhabits most of the clear, rapid rivers which have

a sandy or gravelly bottom, and its favorite haunts are the sides of the stream.

A light rod, cork float, fine hook, and running tackle are necessary; and when you observe a bite, strike the moment the float descends. Handle your tackle skillfully and gently, as the fish's mouth is exceedingly tender, and easily gives way with the jerk of the hook.

The grayling will take caddis, marsh and dew-worms, flies, both natural and artificial, and white grubs. The principal months in which to angle for it are September, October and November, when it is in its best condition.

When fly-fishing for this tenant of the stream, it is necessary to have a fine gut, and smaller fly, and be more ready with hand and eye than when angling for trout.

MINNOWS.

These fish seldom grow above two inches in length; they rank high as a bait for trout or perch; use the silvery bright ones in preference to the big-bellied yellow ones. To catch them you must place your float so as the bait may pass on or near the ground, then drop your bait in gently on the shallows near mill tails, or any other eddy where there is a gravelly bottom, and strike the moment they

bite; put them in your kettle as soon as caught, by which means you may keep them alive till you want them for bait.

THE TENCH.

This fish is generally of a dark color, approaching to black on the back; it generally reaches to three or four pounds weight, and by many is preferred in eating to the carp. In some places these fish are so abundant and ill fed, that a large number of them may be taken in a day's angling.

They generally feed from daylight till nine o'clock in the morning, from May till August, and from five until dark in the evening.

The bait they like best is a well-scoured marsh-worm, not too large, with a No. 7 hook.

The tench thrives best in ponds where the bottom is composed of mud or clay, but at times they may be caught in rivers.

They will take the same baits, and be found in the same haunts as the carp. They will bite freely in the summer months, especially when the days have been dark, warm, and muggy, after fine mild showers. They spawn in May, and the best time to angle for them is early in the morning and late in the evening.

The tench, like the carp, will live a long time

out of the water. The angler should learn the haunts of the fish ere he angles for them.

He should know the depth of the water, and whether the bottom is a clayey, muddy, or gravelly one, for he must fish an inch or two from the bottom, and suit his ground bait to it.

They are not easily met in rivers, except where they are preserved. In ponds, however, they are plentiful enough, and afford good sport from April to October.

EELS.

The eel can always be found in the mud of the river or pond; the bottom fisher seldom troubles himself much about them, but they are to be found more or less in every ditch, river and pond.

Every angler knows the haunts of the eel, how he hides under big stones, in holes, under bridges, by half-sunken timbers, under the roots of trees, and hosts of similar places.

Bobbing at night for them is a very favorite amusement. It is done by stringing large lob-worms completely through with a needle, and tying them in the links with a stout piece of whipcord at short intervals.

These are thrown into the water from a selected spot, and the end being held, the person soon feels

the sharp nip of the eel, who bites so hard and so tenaciously, that he submits to be pulled out of the water sooner than lose his hold. Gradually, he uncurls and allows himself to be pulled out.

The moment he is safe on shore, clap your foot upon his body, and with your knife decapitate him, which will speedily put a stop to his contortions and twistings.

THE BARBEL.

This fish takes its name from the peculiar beard or wattles which hang from its mouth. It is not reckoned a very choice fish for the table, but is much sought after by anglers, in consequence of the sport it affords. They swim in shoals, and are fond of the deep currents of bridges, weirs and locks; they love to lie and feed on the insects borne down by the current.

THE SALMON.

We shall now treat upon that noble fish—the king of rivers—whose age exceeds not ten years; but then his growth is very sudden and quick. Soon after he gets into the sea he rises from a samlet, not bigger than a gudgeon, to be a noble salmon, in as short a time as a gosling comes to be a goose.

The salmon does not stay long in the same place, as trout will, but is always coveting to get nearer the spring-head, and does not lie near the water-side or bank or roots of trees, but swims in the deep or broad parts of the water, and usually in the middle or near the ground.

A salmon rod should be from sixteen to eighteen feet long; a twenty-foot rod is rather tiresome and wearying.

The winch may be one with a weak spring, or what is called a spring-washer.

The fly cast should be of the strongest single gut, well tested, and selected with great care.

The running line should be of plaited silk, and the casting-line of the strongest silk.

Of the salmon flies we give two.

One is made of a yellow mohair body, ribbed with gold twist and black hackle, long, yellow floss silk, tipped with gold tail, a small topping blue jay at the shoulder, turkey tail-feathers for the wings.

Use for this No. 6 hook.

The other is made with a black silk body, black hackle, bright and gaudy wings, and in other respects similar to the first.

Fish the water well, and be not dismayed if at

first your attempts are not rewarded; perseverance will soon be crowned with success.

There is great deal in knowing the haunts of the salmon. They, as a rule, lie on stony bottoms, and avoid smooth, muddy, and even gravelly bottoms.

THE CHUB.

The chub in summer delights in scours, tumbling bays, and deep and rapid parts of rivers; and, in the autumn and winter, in the little holes under banks, where the stream is sheltered by overhanging willows.

It is a bold, biting fish, and may be caught all the year round; in summer it bites during the whole of the day, but best in the morning and evening; it may also be taken in the night time.

The baits adapted for chub are maggots, red-worms, gentles, bullock's brains, and pith from the backbone of a bullock.

Use running tackle, gut line, quill float, and No. 8 or 9 hook; strike the instant you perceive a bite, and let the fish run, giving it plenty of line, otherwise it will break loose, as it usually darts furiously away to the opposite side the moment it is struck.

THE RUDD.

This fish is held in little esteem for the table; it very much resembles the roach in shape and color, and thrives best in ponds. It will take red-worms, paste, and gentles, and the tackle requisite consists of a gut-line, quill-float, and No. 10 hook. Let the bait touch the bottom, and strike the moment you see a bite.

THE RUFFE

Is a fierce-looking, bold biter, and resembles a small perch. They may be caught during the whole of the summer months, and afford excellent sport to the young angler, and, wherever one is caught, be sure there are plenty more.

THE LOACH

Is not a pleasant fish to look at. He has a bullet-head, and his heavy shoulders give him a clumsy look. This fish will bite freely at a worm, and will not despise gentles.

THE LAMPREY

Belongs to the eel tribe, and is caught in a similar manner. The gut of a fowl, or other garbage,

may be substituted for the worm. A small lamprey is a good bait for several kinds of fish if put on the hook with the worm.



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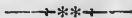
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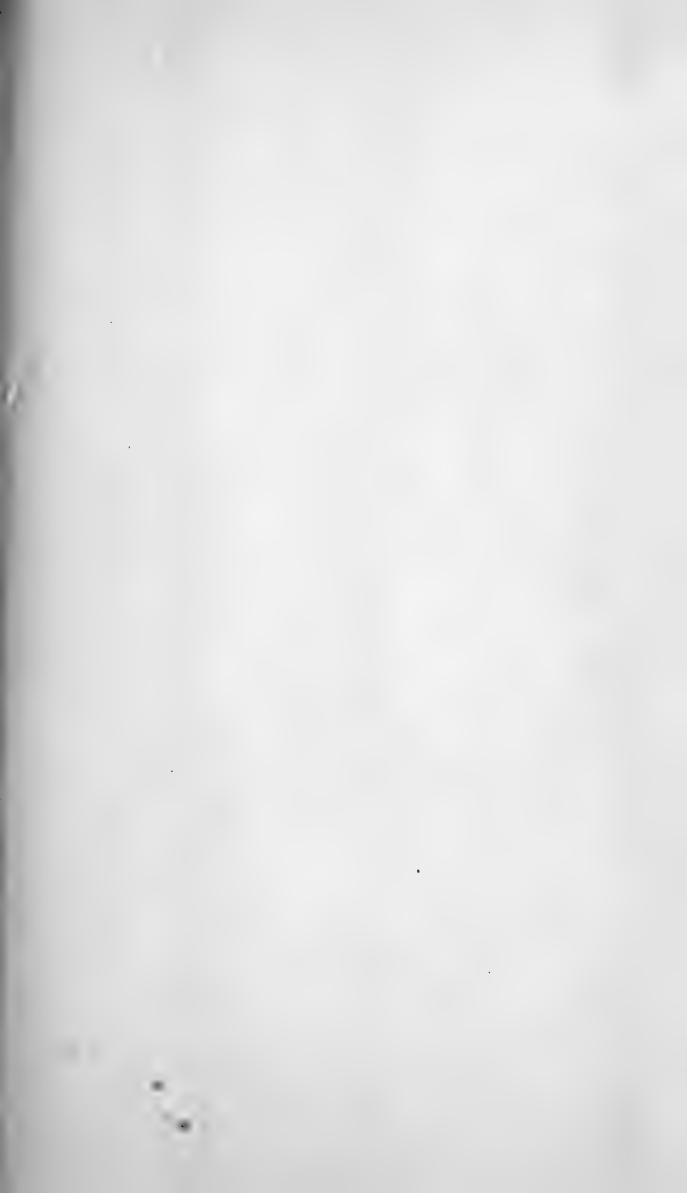
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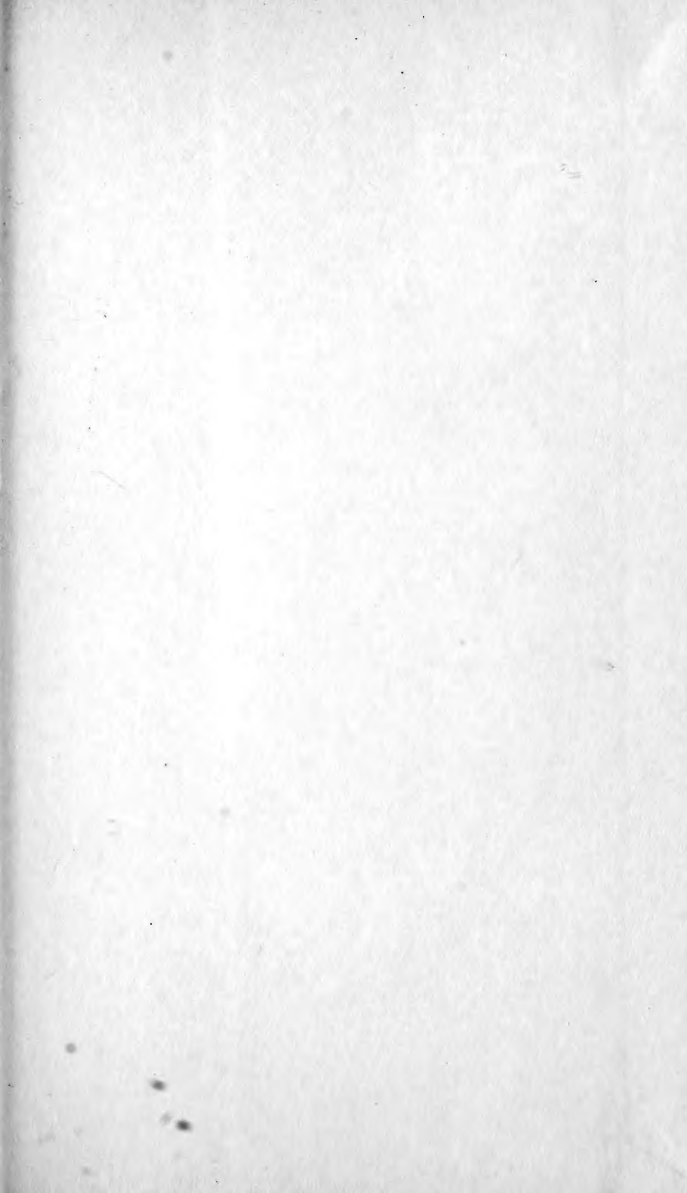
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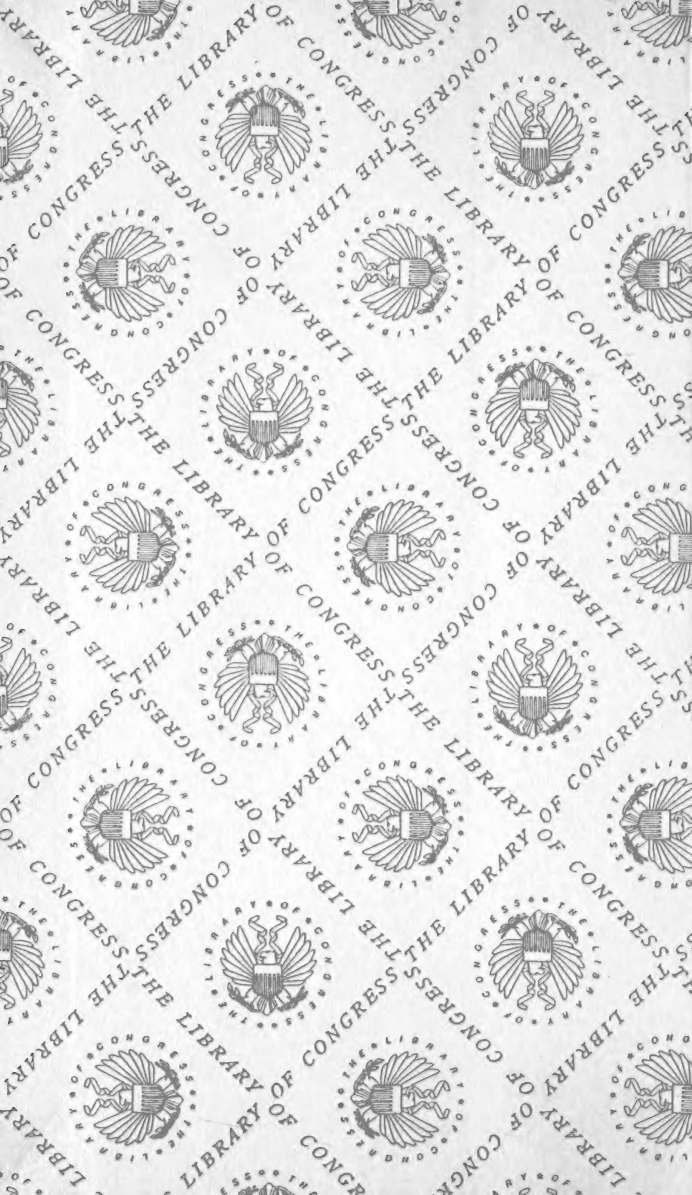
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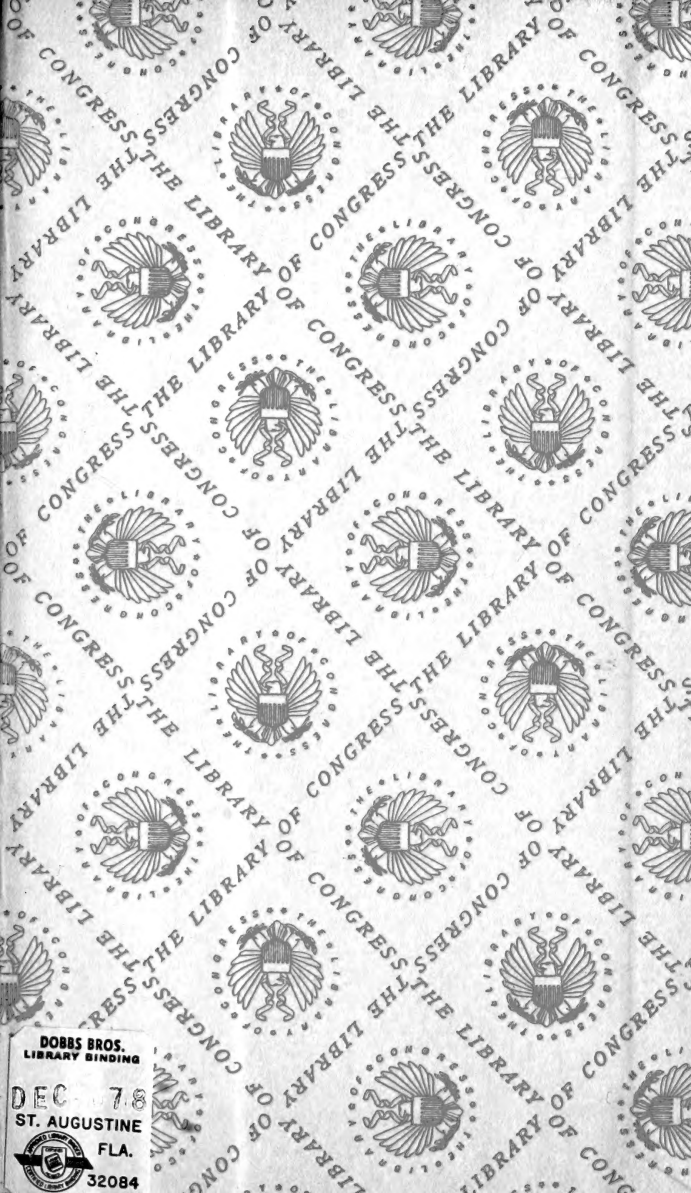
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